

What is claimed is:

1        1. A process carried out in a usage-measuring server for converting metric data generated  
2 from usage data into CSU data, comprising:

3                launching a CSU distillation program which is programmed to control said usage-  
4 measuring server to use formulas to convert metrics and licensing terms into CSU units;

5                reading appropriate metric data and substituting said metric data into variables of  
6 said formulas;

7                reading appropriate licensing terms of a provisioning item data entry in a data  
8 structure stored by said usage-measuring server, said provisioning item storing said CSU  
9 distillation program or containing a pointer to said CSU distillation program, and substituting said  
10 licensing terms into the appropriate variables of the appropriate formulas of said CSU distillation  
11 program; and

12                calculating said formulas to derive said CSU units.

1        2. The process of claim 1 wherein said step of launching happens automatically based upon  
2 a schedule.

1        3. The process of claim 2 wherein said schedule is configurable.

1        4. The process of claim 1 wherein said step of launching is initiated manually.

1        5. The process of claim 1 wherein said step of launching comprises the steps of  
2 detecting when new metric data has been stored, and automatically launching the appropriate one of  
3 one or more CSU distillation programs.

1        6. The process of claim 1 further comprising the step of allowing a user to access said data  
2 structure either from a remote client computer coupled to the usage measuring server over the  
3 internet or another wide area network or dial up connection and create said CSU distillation program  
4 in a data structure of said usage-measuring server by linking a spreadsheet program to said  
5 provisioning item or including said spreadsheet program as part of said provisioning item, and  
6 programming said spreadsheet with suitable formulas to convert variables representing metrics and  
7 licensing terms into suitable CSU units.

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1        7. A process carried out in a usage-measuring server for converting metric data generated  
2 from usage data into CSU data, comprising steps for:

3                using an appropriate distillation program linked to a data entry in a data structure  
4 maintained by said usage-measured server and representing a licensed resource to read  
5 usage data stored in a usage data buffer and representing usage of said resource by a  
6 particular entity and convert said usage data to metric data and storing said metric data in a  
7 metric data buffer;

8                following a pointer stored in said usage data buffer to a CSU distillation program;

9                launching said CSU distillation program, said CSU distillation program structured to  
10 control said usage-measuring server to use formulas to convert metrics and licensing terms  
11 into CSU units;

12                reading appropriate metric data and substituting said metric data into variables of  
13 said formulas;

14                reading appropriate licensing terms of a provisioning item of which said CSU  
15 distillation program is a part or to which said CSU distillation program is linked, and  
16 substituting said licensing terms into the appropriate variables of the appropriate formulas of  
17 said CSU distillation program; and

18                calculating said formulas to derive said CSU units and storing same in a buffer.

1        8. The process of claim 7 further comprising the step of performing a data integrity check  
2 after said metric data and said licensing terms have been substituted into the variables of the  
3 appropriate formulas to ensure that all necessary data to complete the calculation has been read and  
4 substituted into said formulas.

1        9. The process of claim 7 wherein said step of launching happens automatically based upon  
2 a configurable schedule.

1        10. The process of claim 7 further comprising the steps of allowing a user of a resource and  
2 whose usage data is stored in a usage data buffer to access the CSU distillation program pointed to  
3 by said pointer in said usage data buffer and to alter the formulas therein.

1        11. The process of claim 7 wherein said step of launching is initiated manually.

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1        12. The processing of claim 7 wherein said step of launching comprises the steps of  
2 detecting when new metric data has been stored, and automatically launching the appropriate one of  
3 one or more CSU distillation programs.

1        13. The process of claim 7 further comprising the step of creating said CSU distillation  
2 program in a data structure of said usage-measuring server by linking a spreadsheet program to said  
3 usage data buffer by storing a pointer therein to said spreadsheet program, and programming said  
4 spreadsheet with suitable formulas to convert variables representing metrics and licensing terms into  
5 suitable CSU units.

1        14. The process of claim 7 further comprising the steps of receiving communications from a  
2 licensor who provides resources to be licensed which licensor and resources and licensing terms are  
3 represented by data entries in said data structure and providing access to said distillation program(s)  
4 and CSU distillation program(s) pertaining to resources said licensor makes available for licensing  
5 and allowing said licensor to alter the formulas in said distillation and CSU distillation program(s), and  
6 blocking access to said distillation program(s) and CSU distillation program(s) by any licensee whose  
7 usage data is stored in said data structure and which is direct or indirect input data to one or more of  
8 said programs.

1        15. A process carried out in a usage-measuring server for converting metric data generated  
2 from usage data into CSU data, comprising:

3        1) using a distillation program linked to a data entry in a data structure maintained by  
4 said usage-measured server and representing a licensed resource to read usage data stored  
5 in a usage data buffer and representing usage of said resource by a particular entity and  
6 convert said usage data to metric data and storing said metric data in a metric data buffer;

7        2) when new metric data is stored in a usage data buffer, following pointers in said  
8 data structure from said usage data buffer to a provisioning item data entry that contains  
9 licensing terms for said usage and following a pointer from said provisioning item to a CSU  
10 distillation program;

11        3) launching said CSU distillation program, said CSU distillation program structured  
12 to control said usage-measuring server to use formulas to convert metrics and licensing  
13 terms into CSU units;

14        4) reading appropriate metric data from said metric data buffer used in step 1 and  
15 substituting said metric data into variables of said formulas;

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16                   5) reading appropriate licensing terms of said provisioning item located in step 2 of  
17                   which said CSU distillation program is a part or to which said CSU distillation program is  
18                   linked, and substituting said licensing terms into the appropriate variables of the appropriate  
19                   formulas of said CSU distillation program; and  
20                   6) calculating said formulas to derive said CSU units and storing same in a buffer.

1                   16. The process of claim 15 further comprising the step of performing a data integrity check  
2                   after said metric data and said licensing terms have been substituted into the variables of the  
3                   appropriate formulas to ensure that all necessary data to complete the calculation has been read and  
4                   substituted into said formulas.

1                   17. The process of claim 15 wherein said step of launching happens automatically based  
2                   upon a configurable schedule.

1                   18. The process of claim 15 further comprising the steps of allowing a user of a resource and  
2                   whose usage data is stored in a usage data buffer to access the CSU distillation program pointed to  
3                   by said pointer in said usage data buffer and to alter the formulas therein.

1                   19. The process of claim 15 wherein said step of launching is manual after a notice message  
2                   is sent that new metric data has been stored.

1                   20. The processing of claim 15 wherein said step of launching comprises the steps of  
2                   detecting when new metric data has been stored, and automatically launching the appropriate one of  
3                   one or more CSU distillation programs.

1                   21. The process of claim 15 further comprising the step of creating said CSU distillation  
2                   program in a data structure of said usage-measuring server by linking a spreadsheet program to said  
3                   usage data buffer by storing a pointer therein to said spreadsheet program, and programming said  
4                   spreadsheet with suitable formulas to convert variables representing metrics and licensing terms into  
5                   suitable CSU units.

1                   22. The process of claim 15 further comprising the steps of receiving communications from a  
2                   licensor who provides resources to be licensed which licensor and resources and licensing terms are

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3 represented by data entries in said data structure and providing access to said distillation program(s)  
4 and CSU distillation program(s) pertaining to resources said licensor makes available for licensing  
5 and allowing said licensor to alter the formulas in said distillation and CSU distillation program(s), and  
6 blocking access to said distillation program(s) and CSU distillation program(s) by any licensee whose  
7 usage data is stored in said data structure and which is direct or indirect input data to one or more of  
8 said programs.

1           23. A process carried out in a usage-measuring server for converting metric data generated  
2 from usage data into CSU data, comprising:

3           1) receiving data from a licensor via a remote log-on session over a WAN or the  
4 internet that defines one or distillation programs and one or more CSU distillation programs  
5 and recording said programs in said data structure, and recording a pointer to the appropriate  
6 distillation program in a data entry in said data structure representing a resource to be  
7 licensed on a usage-basis and recording a pointer to the appropriate CSU distillation program  
8 in a usage data buffer in said data structure which records usage data of a licensee of a  
9 licensed resource;

10           2) using a distillation program linked to a data entry in a data structure maintained by  
11 said usage-measured server and representing a licensed resource to read usage data stored  
12 in a usage data buffer and representing usage of said resource by a particular entity and  
13 convert said usage data to metric data and storing said metric data in a metric data buffer;

14           3) when new metric data is stored in a usage data buffer, following pointers in said  
15 data structure from said usage data buffer to a provisioning item data entry that contains  
16 licensing terms for said usage and following a pointer in said usage data buffer to a CSU  
17 distillation program;

18           4) launching said CSU distillation program, said CSU distillation program structured  
19 to control said usage-measuring server to use formulas to convert metrics and licensing  
20 terms into CSU units;

21           5) reading appropriate metric data from said metric data buffer used in step 2 to store  
22 said new metric data and substituting said metric data into variables of said formulas;

23           6) reading appropriate licensing terms of said provisioning item located in step 3, and  
24 substituting said licensing terms into the appropriate variables of the appropriate formulas of  
25 said CSU distillation program; and

26           7) calculating said formulas to derive said CSU units and storing same in a buffer.

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1        24. A process carried out in a usage-measuring server for converting metric data generated  
2 from usage data into CSU data, comprising:

3            1) using a distillation program linked to a data entry in a data structure maintained by  
4 said usage-measured server and representing a licensed resource to read usage data stored  
5 in a usage data buffer and representing usage of said resource by a particular entity and  
6 convert said usage data to metric data and storing said metric data in a metric data buffer;

7            2) when new metric data is stored in a usage data buffer, following pointers in said  
8 data structure from said usage data buffer to a provisioning item data entry that contains  
9 licensing terms for said usage and following pointers from said provisioning item to data  
10 representing the resource licensed under the terms of said provisioning item and from there  
11 to a distillation program for converting usage data for said resource to metric data, and  
12 following a pointer in said distillation program to a CSU distillation program;

13            3) launching said CSU distillation program, said CSU distillation program structured  
14 to control said usage-measuring server to use formulas to convert metrics and licensing  
15 terms into CSU units;

16            4) reading appropriate metric data from said metric data buffer used in step 1 to store  
17 said new metric data and substituting said metric data into variables of said formulas;

18            5) reading appropriate licensing terms of said provisioning item located in step 2, and  
19 substituting said licensing terms into the appropriate variables of the appropriate formulas of  
20 said CSU distillation program; and

21            6) calculating said formulas to derive said CSU units and storing same in a buffer.

1        25. The process of claim 24 wherein said usage data buffers storing usage data for various  
2 users who use one or more resources licensed under one or more provisioning items also contain  
3 constants selected for the particular customer whose usage data the buffer stores, and further  
4 comprising the steps of controlling said usage-measuring server using said CSU distillation program  
5 to read said constants from said usage data buffer from which metrics were generated which said  
6 CSU distillation program is to convert to CSU units and substituting said constants into the  
7 appropriate positions in said formulas of said CSU distillation program before calculating the results  
8 said formulas yield.

1        26. A process carried out in a usage-measuring server for converting metric data generated  
2 from usage data into CSU data, comprising:

3            (1) collecting usage data of a user who is using one or more resources licensed

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4 under terms recorded in a provisioning item data entry in a data structure in said usage-  
5 measuring server;

6 (2) storing each item of said usage data in an appropriate usage data buffer assigned  
7 to store usage data of a particular resource by a particular customer;

8 (3) converting said usage data for a resource to metrics using a distillation program  
9 pointed to by pointer data in a data entry representing said resource in said data structure;

10 (4) determining in any way that time to execute a CSU distillation program has  
11 arrived;

12 (5) following a pointer in said provisioning item data entry which stores the license  
13 terms under which said usage of a resource was authorized to an appropriate CSU distillation  
14 program;

15 (6) launching said CSU distillation program and using it to control said usage-  
16 measuring server to use formulas to convert said metrics generated in step 3 and licensing  
17 terms recorded in the appropriate provision item data entry into CSU units;

18 (7) reading any necessary constants and/or customization variables from a pointer  
19 entry in a data structure in said usage-measuring server representing the user whose usage  
20 data was collected and which points to the provisioning item data entry which records the  
21 terms of the license under which said usage was authorized and plugging said constants  
22 and/or customization into formulas of said CSU distillation program;

23 (8) reading said metric data generated in step 3 and substituting said metric data into  
24 variables of said formulas;

25 (9) reading appropriate licensing terms of said provisioning item of which said CSU  
26 distillation program is a part or to which said CSU distillation program is linked and under  
27 which said use was licensed, and substituting said licensing terms into the appropriate  
28 variables of the appropriate formulas of said CSU distillation program; and

29 (10) calculating said formulas to derive said CSU units and storing same in a buffer.